



AMMA

NEWS



Jubilee Celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the
Armenian Evangelical Church



AMAA NEWS

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AMAA Embarks on Our Centennial Celebration and Capital Campaign

Embracing the Future

"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." **Matthew 15:22**

By **Zaven Khanjian**, Executive Director/CEO, AMAA

Doing the simple math, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is only two years away from 2018, the Centennial of our founding. For the past two years, we have been diligently planning the Centennial celebrations and our Capital Campaign.

We conducted a feasibility study, absorbed the Consultant's report, approved a \$20M goal, ratified the Campaign menu and embarked on our Centennial Celebration Kick-Offs. They took place at a Banquet in Los Angeles on October 8 honoring AMAA's Orphan and Child Care Committee, and again at our 97th Annual Meeting Banquet on October 22 in Philadelphia where we honored three distinguished servants of God.

Our Campaign brochure is ready, Honorary Co-Chairs and Committee members have graciously lent their names, our Campaign Committee is set to work hard, and we are on the road to success with \$4M Campaign donations and pledges in hand.

Our brochure clears the way with "For almost one hundred years, the AMAA has served the Lord by putting faith into action for our brothers and sisters in need. We have built churches, schools, and camps, we have provided life-giving medical care, created educational opportunities, met the needs of those in want, and done so much more."

As I evaluate the legacy to which we have pledged our faithfulness in humility and respect, I clearly see the generation anchoring the foundation and building the outstanding legacy which we have so graciously inherited. They experienced, witnessed and survived the greatest atrocity our nation was subjected to in our historical Homeland.

These gallant men and women were not numb to the calamitous destiny of the indigenous masses on our historic Homeland or to the agony and anguish of the surviving orphans and widows in the Syrian Desert and the plains of the Near East. Throbbing hearts and flowing tears gave way to rolled up sleeves. Business insight and hard work paid off fortunes, big and small, and the example of the master illuminated the road to serve. "But I am among you as one who serves." *Luke 22:27*

One of those AMAA pillars made serving others the lust of his life heeding the words of the Apostle Paul. "Each of

you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:4-5. Writing about his interest in the AMAA, this epic American success story, Stephen Philibosian, testifies; "I have always felt that whatever fortune I may have I should share it before I leave this world with those who have been less fortunate."

And whatever fortune he and many others shared, we are proud of the century behind.

You and I are the children and grandchildren of those survivors. We have prospered; lived in peace and boundless abundance. Today it is our turn to invest in the future of our nation. Today it is our turn to inject hope, care for the needy, shelter the homeless and help the Homeland stride forward and make it strong. It is our turn to perpetuate the spirit of the founders and builders of the AMAA.

The challenges have expanded and so should our readiness to meet them. We need to build and improve churches, camps and schools. We need to unsparingly enhance our educational endowments. We need to chart new territories of service. Deliver vital health care. Anchor the future of the AMAA.

Please check out the Campaign Brochure on our website; www.amaa.org. Examine our targeted menu. Take a close look at naming opportunities. Call us with your questions. If need be, we will come to you.

Our Campaign brochure caps, "We have the Lord. We have the call, the responsibility to keep going. We have the legacy, vision, and plan to make a lasting difference in the lives of so many. What we need....IS YOUR SUPPORT. Partner with us in the AMAA Centennial Campaign. TOGETHER, WE'LL EMBRACE THE FUTURE.....and make it brighter."

The blessed birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is upon us, let us answer the call; is there room in the Inn?

On behalf of the AMAA, I wish you all a very joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year. □



Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ. ձեզի, մեզի Մեծ Աւետիս!
Krisdos dzenav yev haydnetzav, tsezee, mezee Medz Avedis!

(Christ is born and is revealed, good tidings to you and to us).

Following the Example

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." **Ephesians 5:1-2**

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." **Colossians 3:17**

By **Nazareth Darakjian**, *President, AMAA Board of Directors*

The Bible is the only reference we have that tells us about the nature and character of God as well as His plans for mankind since the beginning of time. These verses tell us that God is a father, a loving father. He is the father of Jesus and since He created us all He is also the father of the entire creation. Moreover, God loves us all and wants to save us from death to the point where He is willing to see the death of His only begotten son. God is a loving father whose love extends beyond His begotten son to the rest of humanity and we are the beneficiaries of His love.

God's love for humanity is also manifest in the Old Testament even though the relationship is more restricted there to the people of Israel. As early as the delivery of the Ten Commandments, God promises to love and show mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments. Even the concept of loving your enemies is found in Proverbs 25:21 where we read "If your enemy is hungry give him bread to eat and if he is thirsty give him water to drink." More frequently we read this same verse in Romans at the end of Chapter 12 where the Apostle Paul gives a long list of instructions on how to live as a good Christian. God's love for us takes a totally new dimension in the New Testament where He comes to express that love by making the ultimate sacrifice for us so that we may have life and have it more abundantly.

Can we really follow God's example of total giving and self-sacrifice, can we really "surrender all" as we often sing in one of favorite hymns? It's not easy but we can try and we should try. We need to follow God's example of loving our brothers, neighbors and even enemies and expressing that love by giving them material and moral comfort, by giving food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, and moving beyond their physical needs quenching their thirst for education, knowledge, and Christian spiritual revival.

This is our mission and this has been the mission of the AMAA for almost a full century. 2018 is only a year away and the celebrations have already started. But celebrations and commemorations alone will be meaningless without a resolve to follow the example of the founders and pursue this mission to raise it to a higher level during our second century. This is where the Centennial Campaign comes in with a goal

to raise \$20 million. The Campaign will enable us to continue our efforts to help the orphans and needy children of Armenia and the families that are struggling in war-torn Syria and the border villages of Artsakh. It will help us continue providing education through our day care centers in Armenia and our day schools in Armenia, the Near East and the

United States, to build and renovate our Christian Summer Camps in Hankavan, Shushi, the KCHAGs in Lebanon and Syria and Camps Arev and Arevelk in the U.S. And lastly, it will enable us to complete the construction of our church complex in Gyumri, and repair other churches in Armenia as needed.

As we gather to commemorate the birth of our Savior one more time let us remember those who are less privileged than we are and those who are suffering and are in need. Let us follow God's example of loving and giving and let us do it all in the name of Jesus giving thanks to God the father through Him. □



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RePresentations

An Advent Meditation

Matthew 1: 18-25

"...which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." **Matthew 1: 23b-24a**

By **Rev. Ara Guekguezian***

In a broken world, we hunger for wholeness, for unity, for shalom. We pursue it with varying degrees of passion and commitment. It remains elusive. Why, in spite of our 'best' efforts? We, in the United States, are reminded about this every four years through our election process. 'Let us put all the acrimony of the campaign aside and work together.' 'After what you said about my mother? When hell freezes over!'

The relationship, if there was one, is broken. There is a call from the one in power to let bygones be bygones. There is an invitation to come into my tent. But all the good seats are taken. Even among the gracious, there is pain and hostility lingering under the surface that breaks through at the slightest provocation continuing to remind all of the space between. Sometimes the distance is small, just across the aisle. Other times the chasm is so wide, we cannot see the other side.

We suffer as families, in neighborhoods, in our province or state, in our nation, in our world, and even in our congregations, denominations and the Church.

Into this space comes our God. The One who calls us to repent, to turn back to the source of all being, our being, COMES to us. We have heard, 'come to me all who are heavy laden...', and yet if we witness what has happened and what is happening, what is done, we see that God has come in the flesh to all those who are heavy laden. In the person and work of Jesus, beginning with the incarnation, the birth of the child to Mary and Joseph, God has come to us. To repent, to turn back, to cross the aisle, to get across the chasm, we just need to turn around, and there is the healing, the bridge, the Source, our God.

After the turn, then we see, hear and are called to follow me. The ones who have turned now have the joyful and challenging call to be the RePresentation of Jesus, Emmanuel (God is with us) to the broken ones in this broken world. We are not to invite people into the tent from our seat at the table, but we are to go outside, cross the aisle from our position of comfort, of wealth, of power to the ones who are in need, in pain, grieving, imprisoned, addicted, enslaved and broken, and walk with them as they turn to the Light and start on the Way.

As faithful followers, there are signposts on the way, not only a well-worn checkbook or a worn out 'donate' key on the computer, but a passport in need of additional pages.

During this Advent season, as we prepare to receive the Christ Child anew, step out of our glorious settings at home and in the Sanctuary of the Lord, and be a representative of the One who comes in the flesh.

Prayer: Holy Lord, as You have come into this dirty, disordered and broken world, fill us with the Holy Spirit, that we may have the courage and will to come into the places where Your children need to see You again. Amen. □



* Reverend Ara Guekguezian is an AMAA Board member and Chaplain at Bright Horizon Hospice in Fresno, CA.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago

One Generation Shall Praise Your Works to Another

By **Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian**, *President, Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago*

The year 2016 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago. For a century God has met and moved this church community. He has shepherded us through the many highs and lows of life together.

The seed of our story is in fact older than one hundred years. It can be traced all the way back to the early Christian dedication of one, Garabed Pushman. Mr. Pushman began a small gathering of Armenian Christians for worship in the old Chicago Commons as early as 1901. He led and organized this community in their common life together. They prayed, read the Scriptures and shared God's stories of deliverance. Mr. Pushman was a business man — a skilled carpet maker — he used his wise, business acumen

to gather funds for the support of the orphans and widows of the community. Mr. Pushman was also crucial in supporting the formation of the Armenian Missionary Association of America — an organization for which he served as President from 1924-1936. As this community met with increasing regularity, they felt moved to sprout into a full-fledged church family. So it was that God gathered this Chicago Commons fellowship together in 1916, and they became the Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago (AEC) with 44 communicant members.

Since 1916, the Church has weathered the storms of time — experiencing God's faithfulness and generosity all along the way. During the Depression, God sent Rev. Avedis Darakjian to shepherd the delicate Chicago church community. They found hope and inspiration in God's promise as they walked through these difficult financial times with Rev. Darakjian.

Early on in the life of the Church, AEC founded The West Pullman Mission in South Chicago. This was a place of worship and a haven for those in great need. For forty

years, the West Pullman Mission stood out as a beacon of hope and a ministry of grace in the City of Chicago. Rev. Hagop Gurlekian is among the many pastors who served this community.

When the church community needed a home in which to worship — God sent a generous Armenian philanthropist

John Bezazian who, alongside Judge Nazareth Barsoumian, purchased a beautiful lake front property on Sheridan Rd. for the congregation. The property was designed by a young protege and student of Frank Lloyd Wright.

When immigrant Armenians fled danger abroad and sought refuge here in Illinois, faithful pastoral leadership took note of their needs. They led the Church in the work of the Gospel that serves the foreigner in our

midst. Rev. Harry Missirlian, Rev. Puzant Levonian, Rev. Hovhanness Apkarian, Rev. Garabed Tilkian and Rev. Barkev Darakjian all stand out as faithful servant-leaders



who took on the great cause of those disoriented and uprooted from their Homeland.

Today, AEC celebrates the gifts of God's grace in a brand new church building, built from the ground up in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. Construction was completed in 2006 and services began after years of migrating from one church rental to the next.

The stories could continue! God's abundant provisions and grace have been lavished upon us here in Chicago. Examples of devoted followers of Jesus, living into the calling of God,

could go on for pages. The Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago has impacted and shaped the lives of many people. This small Christian community has born witness to the Gospel and after 100 years this witness has rippled into the present, bold and alive — God is good indeed! This is the legacy AEC leaves and this is the bold encouragement we take to heart as we look to the horizon of 100 more years of faithful Christian witness. By God's grace, we look forward to many more years of vibrant Christian ministry. □

Meet Our Veteran Pastors

Rev. Jerair Bizdikian

By **Mihran Jizmejian**, *President, AMAC*

Rev. Jerair Bizdikian was born in Athens, Greece, in 1927 in an Armenian Evangelical home, and attended the Armenian Evangelical School of Athens. As a young child, he regularly attended the Sunday School and the church. Later, as a young man, he joined the youth group of his church, the Christian Endeavor Society. In 1942, during World War II his father died, hence his education was interrupted.

Twelve years after the death of his father, Jerair, at the age of twenty-six, continued his education at the Nazarene Bible School in Beirut, Lebanon. At the same time, he followed English language and literature courses at the British Council. Successfully passing a series of exams, he received a certificate of proficiency in English from the University of Cambridge, England in 1957. That same year he also graduated from the Nazarene Bible School.

He married Alice Mardirossian in the summer of 1957. God blessed the family with four children: three boys and one girl. Jerair was admitted to Haigazian College and the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in the spring of 1958, and graduated with a B.T. degree in 1962. After graduation, he served as Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Athens and was also appointed Director of the Church's School. Occasionally he has served the Athens Church as a visiting pastor, relieving the local pastor for short periods.

For two semesters in 1965-66, he attended the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California. Then for two years he returned to NEST for graduate studies. During these two years, he served as Assistant Minister and Youth Leader at the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Beirut.

In 1968 the Bizdikians moved to Montreal, Canada. For a year, he worked at an institute as a supervisor of teenagers aged 12-18 years for whom the institute was a temporary home. Later, as an English language teacher he worked in the

adult education system. In 1970, he was appointed as an English teacher in a public high school. He attended the McGill University and received his teacher's diploma. He worked as a full-time teacher until he retired in 1992. As a part-time teacher, he taught English at the College of Mt. Morrency for eighteen years and retired from this teaching post in 1995.

Almost all his free time has been absorbed in serving the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal as a Board member, Assistant Pastor and Choir Director. He has also served as a visiting pastor for 18 months at the Memorial Church in Wattertown, MA, and for three months at the Belmont Armenian Evangelical Church in Boston, MA.

Pastor Jerair received his pastoral license in 1962 from the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Middle East. He served as Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal from 1978-80, and from November 1987- April 1992. From 1996 – 2002 he served as the visiting pastor to the Armenian Evangelical Chicago Church where his ordination took place in 2001 by the AEUNA.

Rev. Bizdikian has been serving in various capacities as a visiting pastor, interim Minister, instructor, and administrator in the Armenian Evangelical Churches, and has prepared a textbook for the Seminarians in the Armenian language, entitled "Introduction to New Testament."

He is also a visiting pastor in the local Presbyterian Churches in Quebec.

Rev. and Mrs. Bizdikian have five grandchildren whom they dearly love and give thanks to the Lord. □





Jubilee Celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church

A Feast of Images, Words and Music

By Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor, Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA

As dusk settled on Yerevan on September 25, people streamed from every direction toward Opera Plaza for the crowning event of the Jubilee Celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall was filled to capacity as the National Chamber Orchestra and the “Hover” National Chamber Choir presented a variety of sacred and patriotic music, with impeccable musicianship and expression. What made this evening all the more special was that it also celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the independent Republic of Armenia.

From the opening notes of the Orchestra and Choir, it was clear that the audience was going to be delighted by each piece. Following Armenia’s National Anthem the Choir sang the “*Jubilee Hymn*,” composed in 1946 for the Centennial. Including music from the Armenian Divine Liturgy as well as the Armenian Evangelical hymnal, the Choir and Orchestra presented “*Park yev Badiv*” (the Doxology) as well as a heavenly rendition of “*Sourp*” (Sanctus). Later, many in the audience instinctively rose to their feet and sang the “*Chanits Anthem*” along with the Choir.

An unusual offering was an Easter selection in German – the entire Bach Cantata No. 104 (“Hear, O Shepherd of Israel”), with tenor and baritone soloists. Acknowledging the Armenian Evangelical Church’s God-ordained calling to minister to the entire Armenian nation, the Choir and Orchestra presented “*Der Getso*” (Lord, Preserve), “*Yerevan-Erebuni*” and “*Sardarabad*.” Finally, from the Armenian Evangelical heritage, they performed the first

hymn sung on July 1, 1846, as the first church gathered, “*Yegeghe-tsit Unthanragan*” (Your Church Universal), and Rev. Armenag Misirian’s “*Hayr Mer*” (Our Father), both in its original Classical Armenian and in a new rendition in modern Western Armenian.

Interspersed among the musical offerings were video presentations highlighting the major areas the Armenian Evangelical Church has contributed to the well-being of all Armenians. Each topic described the past and present efforts made in the areas of Biblical and Spiritual Training, Educational Mission, Press and Publications, Evangelistic and Humanitarian Work, and Ecumenical Efforts. These topics were presented in greater detail on numerous display boards in the lobby, which many people took the time to examine before and after the concert. A special video tribute for Armenia’s 25th Independence Day was also shown, in addition to an excerpt from a soon-to-be-released film about the Armenian Evangelical Mission.

A variety of speakers also offered their thoughts on this occasion, including the President of the Evangelical Church of Armenia Rev. Gevorg Gasparyan, AEW Executive Director Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian, and AEW President Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian. He charged the audience not to think of the concert as a concluding event, but to consider the act of departing the concert hall as the beginning of a new movement of witness and service in the name of Jesus Christ. □

AMAA and the Evangelical Church of Armenia Dedicate New Sanctuary in Dilijan

In 2000, the Evangelical Church of Armenia started its ministry in the region of Dilijan. The original members of the Church were a small group of believers who met in houses and had Bible studies. Inspired with the knowledge of the Word of God, they became the permanent members of the Dilijan Church.

For many years, church services were held in a small apartment building. The narrow and uncomfortable room did not bother the believers. Instead, it challenged them to pray for a new and spacious sanctuary.

On Sunday, September 28, members of the Evangelical Church of Dilijan, along with guests who were in Armenia for the dual celebrations of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church and the 25th Anniversary of the Republic of Armenia, held a special Dedication Service for their new sanctuary. They praised God for answering their prayers and thanked the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the benefactors, Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian and Mrs. Anahis Derian Boolghoorjian, for their generous donations



which brought their vision of the new Dilijan Church to realization. Special dedication plaques were unveiled by Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian and Rev. Berdj Djambazian representing Mrs. Anahis Derian Boolghoorjian. □



All Pastors' Retreat Held in Hankavan, Armenia

By Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President, Haigazian University

On the occasion of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church an all-Armenian Evangelical Pastors' Retreat took place on September 22-24, at the AMAA's Sheen-Shoghig Conference Center in Hankavan, Armenia, attended by 80 pastors from North America, Europe, the Middle East, Armenia, Karabagh and Russia. The task of coordination and leadership of the Conference was ably executed by Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian and assisting pastors in Armenia.

The theme of the Conference "Our Relationships" focused on the challenges of I Thessalonians 5:24. The program included worship and fellowship hours, prayer times, lectures and cultural programs. One such example was the special performance of the Armenian dance group of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Vanadzor, with poetry by Pastor Senig Saripekyan, vocal performance by Maretta Antonyan and the praise team of the Church.

The preacher at the opening worship was Rev. Georges Dabbo, and a special greeting was given by the Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA Zaven Khanjian, and the concluding communion service was led by Rev. Melkonian and Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian.

The six sub-themes of the Conference were: Rev. Megrđitch Karagoezian spoke on the "Pastor's Relationship with the Church"; Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian spoke on the "Pastor's Relationship with other Pastors"; Rev. Berdj Jambazian spoke on the "Pastor's Relationship with his Mission"; Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian spoke on the "Pastor's Relationship with his Surroundings"; Rev. Joel Mikaélían spoke on the "Pastor's Relationship with his Family"; and finally Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, who spoke on the "Pastor's Relationship with God."

The participants valued the new friendships developed, the prayerful learning that took place, the common identity formation that was fostered, and the brotherly atmosphere that was created. □

The Minister of RA Diaspora, Hranush Hakobyan Receives the Delegation of the Armenian Evangelical World Council and AMAA

On September 22, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan received the delegation of the Armenian Evangelical World Council and the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), who were in Armenia to attend the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Independence of Armenia and to celebrate the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church in the Motherland.

Minister Hakobyan welcomed the guests and extended congratulations on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Armenia's independence and the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church. She said: "I am glad that you are in Armenia these days when we proudly celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our independence. In the achievements during the 25 years of our independence, I would like to stress three of them. The first is the existence of the two Armenian Republics, the second is our powerful military establishment, and the third, the creation of institutional structures that have been successfully cooperating with international organizations."

Minister Hakobyan highly appreciated the invaluable role of the Diaspora during the difficult days of the establishment of an independent statehood and expressed her gratitude for the contribution of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The Minister also stressed the huge role of Haigazian University, the only Armenian institution of higher education in the Diaspora.

Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, thanked the Minister for her warm words of appreciation and said: "More than obligation, it's a joy for the members of the Armenian Evangelical Church to help the Homeland. We are seeing the tangible achievements during the past 25 years, and the dedication and the efforts of the young



generation in keeping the Homeland with their blood and sweat." Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of AMAA said: "The Armenian Missionary Association of America has an undivided and enduring commitment toward Armenia and is ready to do everything possible in order to achieve as quick as possible to a strong Homeland that we all dream of."

Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, and others also expressed their appreciation.

In closing, Minister Hakobyan wished success to the jubilee Celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church, which was to take place in the Aram Khachadourian Music Hall on Sunday, September 25. □

A Night of Food, Fellowship and Fun in Yerevan

By **David Aynejian**, *Director of Finance, AMAA*

To celebrate the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church, the AMAA held a special dinner on September 20, the eve of Armenia's Independence Day. The event, which took place at Nairy, in Chervej, was attended by Armenian Evangelical pastors from around the world, AMAA Board members, as well as AMAA staff members from Yerevan. Also attending were members of the AMAA's tour group who were visiting Yerevan.

Everyone was treated to a night of fellowship, delicious food and great entertainment. Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, arranged for Leyla Saribekyan, a famous Armenian singer, to give a special concert at the dinner. She sang two different sets of songs, thrilling those in attendance. The audience was also entertained by traditional Armenian dances performed by professional dancers.

The night ended with a massive *shourch bar* (Armenian round dance), with almost all in attendance dancing together. It was truly a good night of food, fellowship and fun as Armenians from around



the world gathered in Yerevan to celebrate Armenia's 25 years of independence, and the Armenian Evangelical Church's 170 years of ministry. □

Faithful to Our Legacy

AMAA's 97th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

The Annual Meeting and related activities of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) took place in Philadelphia, PA, the City of Brotherly Love, October 20-23, 2016 and was hosted by the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church (AMCC) of Havertown, PA. The AMCC Host Committee, Co-Chaired by Eileen Chopourian Stephey, Ed.D. and Thomas Momjian, Esq., included Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Karen Bogosian, Marian Buchakjian, Tim DeMirjian, Elaine Farashian, Lynne Gulezian, Carol Jerrahian, Pauline Karjian, Leila Kevorkian, Joan Momjian and Diane Uber and many volunteers.

Prior to the AMAA Board and Annual meetings, the Executive Board of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC), comprised of representatives from all Armenian Evangelical Unions, held its meeting on Thursday evening and Friday morning. On Friday evening, the AMAA held its regular Board of Directors meeting.

The 97th Annual Meeting of the Association was held on Saturday morning. AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian presided over the meeting, which was attended by over 100 members and guests. Delegates of Armenian Evangelical Churches, Unions, Armenian Evangelical World Council, AMAA Committees and affiliated organizations shared their reports, their joys and concerns and praised God for another successful year. Before the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Darakjian announced the results of the elections for the AMAA Board Class of 2019: Dr. H. Steven Aharonian (CA), Dr. Ara Apelian (NJ), Dr. Rafi Balabanian (CA), Rev. Ara Guekguezian (CA), Berjouhy Gulesserian (NJ), Dr. Susan Jerian (CA), Joseph Stein (CA), Dr. Michael Voskian (NJ) and Gregory Zeronian (CA).

The highlight of the weekend was the sold-out Annual Meeting Banquet on Saturday evening at the Philadelphia Marriot West, honoring three distinguished individuals: Albert Momjian, Esq., former President of the AMAA (posthumously), Honorable Set Momjian, former US Representative to the United Nations, and Rev. Dr. John Markarian, founding President of Haigazian University. Eileen Chopourian Stephey, Ed.D. welcomed the guests and introduced Master of Ceremonies Mark Momjian, Esq. who brought a unique sense of humor and warmth to the event. He welcomed the 200 guests and acknowledged the legacy of each honoree and of the AMAA over the past 97 years throughout the world. Special video presentations were made which provided a glimpse of the very full lives of each honoree. Another video, produced by Tina Stein Segel, highlighted the work of one of the AMAA's newer ministries, the 'Shogh Day Center,' a program the AMAA runs in Armenia.

The Honorable Grigor Hovhannissian, Armenian Ambassador, offered his appreciation for the AMAA's efforts in Armenia and around the world. Among the many guests, he recognized Wilma Cholakian, who served as Administrative Dean of Haigazian University in Beirut during the time he attended the University. They reunited for the first time in over 20 years at the Banquet.

Throughout the evening, musical entertainment was provided by the gifted soprano Anush Avetisyan who performed Armenian and classical pieces.



Clockwise from L to R: Joseph and Joyce Stein, Sona Khanjian and AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian, ROA Ambassador Grigor Hovhannissian, AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Haigazian University Trustee Chair Dr. Ani Darakjian, founding President of Haigazian University, Honoree Rev. Dr. John and Inge Markarian.



L to R: Matthew Momjian, Joan Momjian and Honoree Hon. Set Momjian, Christine and Bruce Momjian.



L to R: Melineh Momjian, Banquet Co-Chair Thomas Momjian, Esq., Esther Momjian, wife of the posthumously honored Albert Momjian, Esq. - former AMAA President, and Carol Momjian Hanamirian, Esq.

In his closing remarks, AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian reflected on the AMAA's upcoming Centennial and stated that the milestone upon us is more than cause for celebration. He added "It is an affirmation of our continued vision; a reminder for introspection and an opportunity for new dreams."

The weekend culminated with a Worship Service held in the sanctuary of the host Church. Pastors from all over the world participated in the Worship Service with prayers and readings from the scriptures. Before the Pastoral Prayer, Rev. Ara Guekguezian led a special moment of remembrance to honor the memory of those members and friends of the Association, who made the transition from this life to Life Eternal during the past year. The Armenian message, with the theme "Faithful to our Legacy," was offered by Rev. Gilbert Leonian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Alfortville, France. Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor of AMCC, offered the English sermon with the theme "A Legacy of Suffering... for the Gospel."

The Church Choir enriched the Worship Service with their music, and the Executive Director of the AEWC, Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, brought the service to its culmination with the installation of the newly-elected AMAA Board members.

In conjunction with celebrating the 170th Anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Evangelical Church, this year's theme "Faithful to Our Legacy" kicked-off the Centennial Capital Campaign on the East Coast garnering lead gifts which pushed the gifts raised past the \$4 million mark.

Special thanks are extended to Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor of the host Church, Host Committee Co-Chairs Thomas Momjian, Esq. and Eileen Chopourian Stephey, Ed.D. and members, and all delegates of the Armenian Evangelical Churches, Unions, Armenian Evangelical World Council, AMAA Committees and affiliated organizations for their hard work and support in making this another



L to R: Mark Momjian, Esther Momjian, Carol Momjian Hanamirian, Set Momjian, Zaven Khanjian, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Inge Markarian, Rev. Dr. John Markarian, Thomas Momjian.



successful and memorable AMAA Annual Meeting. Special thanks also to Marge and Karen Bogosian and the team from Visual Sound who provided the audio and video systems for church meetings and the Banquet. □

AEUNA Honors Rev. Dr. John Markarian at AMAA's 97th Annual Meeting

At the AMAA Annual Meeting, AEUNA Moderator Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian and MTU Rev. Berdj Djambazian together presented a special plaque on behalf of the AEUNA in appreciation and honor of Rev. Dr. John Markarian's ministries as an Armenian Evangelical educator, a leader, and the first President of Haigazian University.

Rev. Djambazian introduced Rev. Dr. Markarian by relating a personal story: "In 1978, after eight days of Bourj Hammoud's heavy bombardment by the Syrian Army, there was a five-hour ceasefire. Through the rubble came a U.N. Jeep, carrying Rev. Dr. Markarian and the Los Angeles Times reporter Craig Morris (who was later killed by a sniper during the Iran hostage crisis). Rev. Dr. Markarian found me at the shelter, where there was no water or bread. He brought me to his house. They had saved me a bowl of water to wash up with (there was no flowing water at all in the city!), then he took me to the airport so I could fly to Paris, where my wife and children were. For me, Rev. Dr. John Markarian was the embodiment of true love in action, and a man filled with compassion."

After the tributes, all in attendance gave Rev. Dr. Markarian a standing ovation.



L to R: Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian, Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Rev. Dr. John Markarian and his wife Inge Markarian.

AEWC Holds Biennial Meeting in Havertown, PA

The Biennial Meeting of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC), was held in Havertown, PA on October 20-21, 2016.

The following items were duly discussed and acted upon:

- 1. Evaluation of the 170th Anniversary celebrations.** A general review and evaluation was made on the 170th Anniversary celebrations of the Armenian Evangelical Church which were held both in Armenia and in various countries of the Diaspora. Likewise, an evaluation was made on the All Armenian Evangelical Pastors' Retreat held in Hankavan, Armenia.
- 2. Dialogue with Etchmiadzin.** A report on the dialogue between the AEWC and the Holy See of Etchmiadzin was discussed. It was recommended to continue the Dialogue.
- 3. An AEWC Liaison office in Armenia.** The establishment of an AEWC liaison office in Yerevan, Armenia was announced. It is located in the AMAA Headquarters in Yerevan.
- 4. Toward a uniform "Order of Worship."** Because of the diversity of the "Order of Worship" in the Armenian Evangelical churches, it was recommended that Armenian Evangelical ministers and religious workers follow the format recommended by the "Pastor's Manual" of the AEWC. Likewise, while they have the freedom to use contemporary hymns and songs, it was recommended the use of more of the traditional hymns which are part of the Armenian Evangelical liturgy.
- 5. Statements released to the press.** Among other items on its agenda, the AEWC discussed the 25th Anniversary celebrations of Artsakh and Armenia, as well as the tragic situation in Aleppo, Syria; made the following resolutions and released them to the Armenian press:

On September 2, 2016 and September 21, 2016, both Nagorno Karapagh Republic (Artsakh) and the Republic of Armenia respectively celebrated their 25th Anniversary of independence. On this milestone, the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) extends its hearty congratulations to both of these Armenian states, and reaffirms its ongoing commitment to help strengthen the independent statehood of both Armenian republics.

As for the bloodshed in Aleppo, the Council declared:

The AEWC painfully records the loss of Armenian lives and property in Aleppo. It resolves to rebuild its churches and institutions as much as possible. It also reaffirms its unwavering commitment to support those who are determined to remain in their community, and to assist those who prefer to migrate to our Homeland Armenia. In the meantime, the AEWC earnestly prays that the five-year-long tragedy will come to a speedy end and peace will prevail in the war-torn Syria.

- 6. Elections.** The Council held its biennial elections, and the following were elected for the years 2017-2018: Rev. Berdj Djambazian, President; Rev. Joel Mikaelian, Vice President; Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, Secretary; Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Executive Director.

*Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director
Armenian Evangelical World Council*



Front Row L to R: Rev. Dr. Rene Leonian, Joyce Philibosian Stein, Rev. Joel Mikaelian, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Zaven Khanjian. **Back Row L to R:** Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, Rev. Gevorg Gasparyan, Rev. Jacques Tchoghondjian, and Rev. Gilbert Leonian. Missing from the photo: Rev. Haroutune Selimian and Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian.



Child and Orphan Care Committee Honored

\$3.4M Raised at AMAA “Centennial Kick-Off” Banquet

By Joyce Abdulian and Phyllis Hamo

On Saturday, October 8, more than 300 guests gathered at the Jonathan Club of Los Angeles, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Child and Orphan Care Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Co-Chairs Gary Phillips and Jack Muncherian welcomed the audience and introduced Master of Ceremonies Paul Kalemkarian, Jr. who led the evening in celebration. Generous sponsors contributed \$3.4M.

Dr. Lisa Karamardian’s heartfelt devotional and prayer were followed by a summary of AMAA outreach programs by AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian who outlined this Kick-Off event of the AMAA Centennial Celebration and its \$20M Campaign. He mentioned that, through the efforts of the AMAA’s Child and Orphan Care Committee, the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the orphans were being met and that schools and educational programs were a top priority.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Greg Hosharian Quartet which performed original and electrifying renditions of Armenian classic and folk music. A video, produced by Tina Stein Segel, highlighted and recognized the founding members of the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee, established in 1991. The founders honored were Joyce Abdulian, Elizabeth

Agbabian, Hermine Janoyan, Grace Kurkjian, Mary Najarian, Joyce Stein, and Savey Tufenkian of Los Angeles, Juliette Abdulian of Chicago, Rosette Tootikian of Detroit, Michele Simourian of Boston and Mary Jane (MJ) Hekemian of New Jersey.

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian reported significant donations to the AMAA of three million dollars



L to R: Paul Kalemkarian, with Co-Chairs Gary Phillips and Jack Muncherian.

toward the Centennial Kick Off Campaign—one million dollars each by Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian, The Stephen Philibosian and Conte Foundations, and a donor establishing “The Papken and Helen Mugrditchian Endowment Fund.”

Mr. Khanjian noted that the future of the Homeland is in the hands of the orphans we have supported. He expressed his appreciation to the founding ladies: “...whose determined action 25 years ago made history, embarking on a major change in the direction of the AMAA and our Homeland, Armenia.” He added, “It was the reputable, credible, and righteous foundation on which, through the 25 years of Armenia’s independence, the AMAA has built an empire of benevolence all over the country.”

National Co-Chair of the Child and Orphan Care Committee Joyce Stein shared her personal testimony and family history with the AMAA, stating that the first AMAA Endowment was established by her father, Stephen Philibosian, in 1950. She expressed her appreciation for the multi-talented young women on the Committee, and commended their extraordinary efforts for the highly successful annual Child and Orphan Care Children’s Fashion Show/Silent Auction fund-raiser. More than five million dollars has been raised over the past 25 years.



L to R: Gary & Arsine Phillips, Nazareth & Ani Darakjian, Sona & Zaven Khanjian, and Lori & Jack Muncherian.

Members of the event Committee, Lori Muncherian and Arsine Phillips, honored the Child and Orphan Care volunteers with framed, original paintings created by children of Armenia.

The program concluded with the Benediction song, "God Bless America," and the evening emerged a rousing success. It was a solid kick-off for the AMAA Centennial campaign. □



Dr. Papken and Helen Mugrditchian.



Joseph and Joyce Philibosian Stein.



L to R: Dr. Lisa Karamardian, Arsine Phillips and Lori Muncherian.

AMAA ARMENIA TOUR

Celebrating the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church

By **David Aynejian**, Director of Finance, AMAA

The AMAA concluded its annual tour on September 29, 2016. This year's tour consisted of 18 people from US, Canada and the UK. The tour was packed with visits to many historical sites in Armenia and Karabagh. New friendships were made, and a great time was had by all.

Each day was filled with a new adventure, and the group enjoyed every stop along the way. The group was also fortunate enough to take in the Independence Day Parade on September 24 in Yerevan. This year's tour was also fortunate to have many great views of Mt. Ararat on several different days. For those of you who have been to Armenia, you know how rare that can be!

This year's tour was a homecoming for many participants, some of whom had never

been to Armenia. It was their first time in the Motherland, and they, along with the rest of the group, enjoyed the many different sites which were visited. From Sevan to Datev to Kantzasar, and all the places in between, each stop was a history lesson and a new connection with the Motherland.

The group also visited several AMAA locations to see the programs in action. The Avedisian School amazed the group as it is a one of a kind building. The group also enjoyed visiting the Bilezikian Kindergarten in Shushi, where they handed out Bibles and candy to the children. Another highlight of the tour was taking part in celebrations of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church.

Be on the lookout for the next tour! ☐



The group at Dzidzernagapert.



Rick & Carol Ishkanian, Luiza Aynejian and Annie Havatian buying brooms at the "shuga" just outside the train station in Yerevan.



Girl time - Members of the tour at the Charents Memorial.



David Aynejian enjoying a good laugh with Vaughn & Sybil Derderian.



Members of the tour taking in the gorgeous scenery outside Ohanavank.



The group in front of the Avedisian School.



Detroit friends Vaughn & Sybil Derderian and Annie Havatian enjoy the beauty of Keghart.



Arpi Shiragian, Lydia Nercessian and Joy Shiragian at Dzidzernagapert.



Vaughn Derderian takes time to play chess with one of the children at the Bilezikian Kindergarten in Shushi.



Ani Balikian handing out Bibles at the Bilezikian Kindergarten in Shushi.



Sybil Derderian, Hermine Atmekjian, Luiza Aynejian and Annie Havatian in front of St. Gayane Church in Etchmiadzin.



Rick and Carol Ishkanian with AMAA Finance Director David Aynejian and his wife Luiza in front of Mt. Ararat.



Thomas and Armine Webb enjoy themselves during the farewell dinner at Parvana.



Maral Poladian and Luiza Aynejian at Garni.



Annie Havatian and Anoosh Fermanian during a tour of the Armenia Tree Project's Karin nursery.



Members of the tour in front of Madenataran.



Rick Ishkanian with driver Grigor enjoying some lavash.



Fast friends Maral Poladian and Carol Ishkanian.



Anoosh Fermanian hands out Bibles to children at the Bilezikian Kindergarten in Shushi.



Arpi & Joy Sahagian admiring the beauty of Kevharts with David Aynejian.



Rick and Carol Ishkanian in front of Ghazanchetsots Church in Shushi.



Carol Ishkanian, Anoosh Fermanian and Annie Havatian at the Mergerian Carpet Factory in Yerevan.

AMAA Boston Area Orphan and Child Care Committee Celebrates 25 years of *In the Spirit of Giving*

By Dianne Chilingirian

On September 29, the exquisite Wellesley Country Club was the setting for the AMAA Boston Area Orphan and Child Care Committee's 25th Anniversary **In The Spirit of Giving** Gala.

Committee Chair Michele Simourian proudly welcomed the largest crowd ever for this event. The elegant dining room was decorated with tables all in gold and white, lit by softly gleaming chandeliers, and bedecked with flowers. Esteemed National Co-Chair of the Orphan and Child Care Committee Joyce Stein then inspired guests with her very personal memories of the children and families who have been helped over the years by the AMAA.

Following a delicious dinner, Committee member Joyce Janjigian introduced talented celebrity guest auctioneer and WBZ and WCCO radio talk show host Jordan Rich, who kept the laughter flowing. Among the items auctioned were tickets to the Boston Pops Christmas, the Boston Ballet Nutcracker, a tour of the State House with Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, lunch with County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, Bruins and Red Sox tickets, and exciting hotel stays. The wine pull delighted the vast majority, and quite a few lucky ladies left the event eager to wear their Armenian silk scarves designed by Anet.

The event closed with a heartfelt thanks to all the Committee members who were presented with gifts of beautiful Armenian artwork



Joyce Philibosian Stein, National Chair of AMAA's Orphan and Child Care Committee, and Michele Simourian, Boston Area Orphan and Child Care Committee Chair.

and elegant beaded scarves. These items were donated by the family of an Armenian survivor and orphan, who like so many, truly value and appreciate the continuing efforts of the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committee. □



Back row, L to R: Jacquie Stepanian, Dianne Chilingirian, Pamela Avedisian, Joyce Janjigian, Joanne DeAngelis, Michele Simourian, Nicole Simourian Chapman. **Front row, L to R:** Jeanmarie Papelian, Carolyn Eurdolian, Armine Hovhannissian, Joyce Stein. Committee members not pictured: Edrina Barsamian, Annie Chekijian, Susan Adamian Covo, Phyllis Dohanian, Jennifer Esserian, Deborah Jigarjian, Rosemary Martirosian, Rosalyn Minassian, LuAnn Ohanian, Candace Simourian.

Aleppo

Today and Tomorrow

شبكة أخبار حي الزهراء بـ حلب



Benefiting from Rev. Haroutune Selimian's visit to Paramus, NJ, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) organized an event on October 26, 2016 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ to hear updates on Aleppo.

Rev. Selimian is the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria and Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church in Aleppo. During the five-year war, which continues to be in escalation mode, Rev. Selimian has been with his flock suffering together the hardship and supporting them morally and spiritually every day.

Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Pastor of the Armenian Presbyterian Church, opened the evening with a prayer.

In his opening remarks, Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, noted that the Western mainstream media recently hyped the reporting of the agony of the 250,000 Syrians living in Aleppo's East side under the control of extremists. The media however ignored the five-year plight of the 1,250,000 people under government control who suffer from the daily barrages of rockets and mortars with no running water and no power.

Mr. Khanjian noted "now that we know 'Where is Aleppo' and 'What is Aleppo' it may be time to ask the question 'How is Aleppo, all of Aleppo?'" He mentioned the continuous financial help that the AMAA has been extending to the Armenian community in Aleppo since the economic machine stopped because of the conflict.

He added that for those Syrian Armenians who are willing and unable, the AMAA has introduced the 'Syria Lifeline' program which manages their move and covers all transportation costs to the Homeland. Mr. Khanjian commended Rev. Selimian's courage

and sacrifice daily risking his life shepherding the flock in the divided war-torn city.

A video followed the presentation. The first part depicted 'before and after' pictures of institutions, structures, buildings, Armenian churches and schools in Aleppo, Kessab and Der Zor which show the horrible destruction. This part of the video also showed pictures of many Armenian victims of the war.

The second part was an illustration of the fervent life of the faithful at Sunday Church services, Sunday schools, children's choir, youth groups and ladies' guild activities as well as Kindergarten, Elementary and Secondary students in classrooms and at leisure. The video concluded with pictures of social services; food and water distribution, household essentials, cooking gas, clothing and shoes, monetary subsidies to families in need, Christmas and Easter packages, pajamas and toys to children and the Bethel Polytechnic, family visitations by the pastor, visitation to the Armenian old aged home, the orphanage, etc.

Rev. Selimian then spoke and reminded the guests that this is not the first time that the Armenian nation has endured a catastrophe like this. He said these experiences make people stronger in their faith and get closer to each other.

He stated that without the help of the AMAA, none of the good shown in the video would happen. Because of the AMAA aid, institutional structural damage is immediately repaired, teachers are paid their full salary and bonuses to cover currency devaluation and the children's' tuition is paid.

Rev. Selimian elaborated on all the programs that were shown in the video. He stated that Christians believe that all people are created with the image of God. With this conviction some help is also distributed to local neighbors who suffer under the circumstances. He said ministers extend a shoulder for people to

cry on, visit families of victims and perform funeral after funeral. Rev. Selimian expressed confidence that someday we shall see the Armenian churches rebuilt with the return of peace as there is always the hope of sunrise after darkness.

Mr. Khanjian ended the evening stressing that the vibrant and peaceful oasis amidst the desert of death and destruction in Aleppo is only achieved through the grace of God. He appealed to the audience to continue their steadfast support of the Armenian community in Aleppo. He said, "It is our spiritual, national and humanitarian duty to do so."

Following Rev. Gulleyan's closing prayer a reception followed.

The AMAA is thankful to all those who responded to Mr. Khanjian's call for support; \$12,000 was raised for needy Syrian Armenian families. A special thank you to George Khorozian, who donated \$10,000 which was raised in honor of his 70th birthday. □



Rev. Haroutune Selimian and Zaven Khanjian.

The AMAA's focal point rests in our *Syria LifeLine* to help families resettle in *Armenia*

We have resettled dozens of Syrian Armenian families to the safety of the Homeland and continue to do so.

Help us continue the effort to move any and all willing families from the danger zone. Your caring gift, no matter how large or small, will help provide much needed relief to these families who have undergone so much suffering and unrest. They are also in need of your daily prayers.





THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN GOALS

PRIORITIES BREAKDOWN

CABINET

NAZARETH DARAKJIAN, M.D.
KENNETH KEVORKIAN
ZAVEN KHANJIAN
JOYCE PHILIBOSIAN STEIN

HONORARY CHAIRS

ROBERT & MARY JANE HEKEMIAN, SR.
JOHN & MICHELE SIMOURIAN
JOSEPH & JOYCE PHILIBOSIAN STEIN

HONORARY COMMITTEE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
BARONESS CAROLINE COX
THE HON. GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
FRANKLIN GRAHAM
STEVE KERR
PAUL KREKORIAN

COMMITTEE

LINDAKAY ABDULIAN
BRYAN AGBABIAN
VALINA AGBABIAN
DAVID AYNEJIAN
NORA BALABANIAN, M.D.
JEFFREY BILEZIKIAN
ANITA PHILIBOSIAN BUCHAKJIAN
ZAVEN CHAKMAKJIAN, M.D.
PHYLLIS DOHANIAN
LEVON FILIAN
BERJOUHY GULESSERIAN
DAVID R. HAGOPIAN
MIHRAN JIZMEJIAN
THOMAS MOMJIAN, ESQ.
LORI MUNCHERIAN
SETA LOSHKAJIAN NALBANDIAN
HEATHER OHANESON, PH.D.
CAROL BEZIRGANIAN PEREZ, M.D.
ARSINE BEDROSSIAN PHILLIPS, ESQ.
GEORGE PHILLIPS, JR., ESQ.
MAGDA POULOS
TAMMY BEDROSIAN SHEGERIAN
EILEEN CHOPOURIAN STEPHEY, ED.D.
MARINA SAATJIAN-SWEENEY
CARLOS TARAKTZIAN
ROSETTE TOOTIKIAN
KENELL TOURYAN, PH.D.
REV. JEREMY TOVMASSIAN

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Churches in Armenia

New Construction: Gyumri Church and Center	\$2,100,000
Renovations: Alaverti-Vanatzor-Ijevan	\$1,000,000

Camps

Renovations: Camp Sheen-Shoghig in Hankavan, Armenia	\$1,250,000
Renovations: Camp Bedrosian in Shushi, Karabagh	\$150,000
Renovations: KCHAG, Lebanon	\$200,000

Schools

Renovations: Kindergartens in Karabagh	\$100,000
Avedisian School Fence and Walkway, Yerevan, Armenia	\$200,000

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Educational Funds

Armenian Evangelical Schools in Lebanon	\$1,000,000
Haigazian University, Beirut Lebanon	\$4,000,000
Avedisian School, Yerevan, Armenia	\$2,000,000
Armenian Evangelical Schools in North America	\$1,000,000

Churches and Mission Development Funds

Europe	\$1,000,000
Eurasia	\$1,000,000

Health Care Missions Fund

\$1,000,000

General Endowment Fund

\$3,000,000

ANNUAL OPERATING FUND

Mission and Service

\$1,000,000

CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



GYUMRI CHURCH & COMMUNITY CENTER

Just north of Mount Arakadz, Gyumri is the second largest city in Armenia and the regional center in the Shirak Highland. With a rich history, Gyumri is considered the main cultural and educational center of Northern Armenia.



Honoring Our Legacy...

The AMAA began its work in the city of Gyumri in 1989 by offering direct assistance to survivors whose lives were shattered by the earthquake that fateful night in December 1988. Services for children such as Christian Education, tutorial and educational programs began in 1992 in the then newly opened Center. The Armenian Evangelical community in Gyumri consisted of a few hundred members. Their backgrounds diverse, representing cross-section of the town's population, mostly comprised of representatives of the poor class, but also professionals such as dentists, mathematicians, teachers, actors, painters and builders.

The current Center was bought in 1999 and formed by renovating and connecting two unfinished apartments on the ground floor of a residential building. As years passed and the AMAA's programs grew in-line with the original vision for the community, the building could not keep pace with the needs and began to show its wear and tear quite rapidly. Church services are held in a basement sanctuary.

IGN

ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Embracing the Future

The construction is well underway to build a new Church and Community Center, honoring and building upon the work of our predecessors. The new Church and Center will serve a vibrant church community of near 300 people. The complex is anticipated to provide a facility where young and old can socialize in a warm and safe Christian atmosphere, play sports, play indoor games, socialize and hold group activities on a daily basis.

Over 200 children, youth and young adults will participate in weekly gatherings, as part of the Christian Education program.

AMAA's new Church and Community Center consists of two buildings which will house a sanctuary designed to seat near 210 people. The auxiliary building will house: social services, office space, classrooms and a social hall. Outside the

grounds will include a field, basketball and volleyball courts.

The new Gyumri Church and Community Center will become a place of pride and joy for many, where people will find the path of truth and the salvation of the soul, where they will receive support, where they will be filled with physical and spiritual warmth. It will give hope and light to those who have lost hope due to the earthquake and the various storms of life.



AEUNA Celebrates 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church

On Sunday, October 2, Minister to the Union Rev. Berdj Djambazian joined the Southern California Armenian Evangelical Churches' celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the birth of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The event, held at United Armenian Congregational Church, featured praise and worship through the participation of choirs, soloists and bands from 10 AEUNA churches, as well as students from the Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School.

The program also included the presentation and signing of the book "Whisper of the Roots" by Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian.

Recognition and acknowledgment of three retired AEUNA pastors, who could not be present at the AEUNA Biennial Banquet in Chicago, IL where the official recognition took place, was a special moment. Honored pastors were Rev. Habib Alajaji, Rev. Dr. John Khanjian, and Rev. Jirair Sogomian, who were present with their family members, former congregations, and

friends. The celebratory event concluded with the signing of the Lord's Prayer *Hayr-Mer*, followed by a reception in Avazian Hall where a special gallery exhibited photos of Armenian Evangelical churches in Historical Armenian and Cilicia.

The Second Celebration of the Anniversary was held on Sunday, October 16, at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA with a unique musical event featuring "New Hope Singers." The musical ensemble presented a concert full of praise, sacred and authentic music in new arrangements from the Armenian Evangelical tradition.

The event was attended by representatives of sister churches, Armenian political parties, and cultural associations. Haig Amirian introduced the musicians and Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian presented the two speakers: Rev. Greg Haroutunian (English message) and Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian (Armenian message). Retired AEUNA Pastor Rev. Barkev Darakjian received a special plaque in honor of his many years of exceptional service.

In his concluding remarks, Minister to the Union Rev. Berdj Djambazian praised the performance of the musicians and thanked all those who prepared the program.

A reception in Avazian Hall followed the concert, and a special exhibit of personages and Armenian Evangelical churches of historical Armenia and Cilicia were on display in the hall. □



L to R: Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian, Rev. Dr. John Khanjian and Rev. Berdj Djambazian.



L to R: Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian, Rev. Habib Alajaji and Rev. Berdj Djambazian.



L to R: Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Rev. Jirair Sogomian and Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian.



L to R: Mrs. Agnes Darakjian, Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Rev. Barkev Darakjian and Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian.

Armenian Evangelical Mother Church of Pera, Istanbul Celebrates 170th Anniversary of the Church

By Sona Özpenbe*

By God's grace, we had the privilege and joy to celebrate the 170th Anniversary of the birth of our Church of Pera, Istanbul, the mother of the worldwide Armenian Evangelical Church.

On November 6, we had a special Worship Service at the Church to celebrate two occasions – the 170th Anniversary of our Church and the dedication of our sanctuary.

We remembered with grateful hearts the 40 pioneers of faith, who established our Church 170 years ago on solid foundation and we praised God for their love and dedication. Forty members of our Church were present at this celebratory Worship Service – what a surprising and promising coincidence.

Around the Holy Communion Table, we renewed our Covenant to remain faithful to our forefather's faith and be today's torchbearers of our Church. We lifted up to the Lord with prayers the oldest member of our Church, Aznive Dishcheken, and the youngest member of our Church, Theo Paul Eukel (three months old).

At the end of the Worship Service, we immortalized this historical day when we gathered around the 170th Birthday cake of our Church. May God bless the Armenian Evangelical Church and keep her under His wings. □

**Sona Özpenbe is the Preacher/Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Pera Church*



Top photo: Ohannes Torkumoğlu, Chairman of the Church Council, lights the 170th Anniversary Candle.

Left photo: Sona Özpenbe lifts up to the Lord with prayers the oldest member of the Church, Aznive Dishcheken, and the youngest member of our Church, Theo Paul Eukel (three months old).





AMAA's Best of Christmas Holiday Concert

By **David Aynejian**, *Director of Finance, AMAA*

On Friday, December 2, the Armenian Missionary Association of America hosted a Christmas Concert at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ. The Concert was led by Artistic Director Vagharshak Ohanyan and joined by sopranos Anahit Zakaryan, Alvard Mayilyan, Piano Accompanist Evgeni Ninov, as well as the Arminstring Ensemble and the Hamazkayin Arekag Children's Chorus.

The audience was thrilled with various sounds of the season, as well as from the Homeland. They were entertained with songs by Gomidas and various traditional Christmas songs such as "O Holy Night." The Hamazkayin Arekag Children's Chorus helped close out the night. Their rendition of "Silent Night" in Armenian (Loor Keesher) brought some members of the audience to tears.

Since the early 1990s, the AMAA and the Evangelical Church of Armenia have been organizing Christmas programs in Armenia and Karabagh to share God's love in the motherland. Proceeds from this concert will benefit this program. □



Anahit Zakaryan and Alvard Mayilyan.



Arminstring Ensemble.



Vagharshak Ohanyan.

Meridianian Students Participate In Talent Search Contest

Several C & E Meridianian Armenian Evangelical School students participated in the Talent Search Contest organized by Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. These students scored in the 95th percentile or higher on their SAT 10 reasoning tests that the School administered in May.

Marianna Dzhuryan, a current 7th grader, as well as current 8th graders Andrew Manikyan, Lark Kabakian and Raffi Karapetian performed above their grade levels. Marianna competed with 9th graders and Andrew, Lark and Raffi competed with 12th graders

nationwide. Andrew and Lark were awarded High Honors for being among the highest scoring participants in the contest, which recognizes excellence in mathematical, verbal and spatial abilities. Andrew scored better than 84 percent of the 12th graders in the Reading/Writing section and better than 73 percent of the 12th graders in the Math section. Lark scored better than 79 percent of the 12th graders in the Reading/Writing section.

Congratulations to the students as well as their dedicated parents and teachers. Meridianian is proud of its students! □



Andrew Manikyan and Principal Lina Arslanian.



Lark Kabakian and Principal Lina Arslanian.

Ronald Altoon Receives Hon. Doctor of Architecture from NUACA



During a University ceremony in Yerevan on October 11, the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia, formerly known as Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction, awarded Ronald Altoon an Honorary Doctor of Architecture degree. Rector Gagik Galstyan noted Mr. Altoon's continuous contributions, advancing the profession of architecture in Armenia. His contributions began in 1988 when he organized two humanitarian intervention trips on behalf of The American Institute of Architects in response to the devastating Spitak Earthquake where 50,000 people lost their lives.

Since that time, Mr. Altoon has served on the Board of Directors of the Armenian Assembly of America, for which he designed three manufacturing facilities in Gyumri; he was the architect of the seismic responsive, energy efficient American University of Armenia Paramaz Avedisian Building and the concept design architect of its proposed Student Union and Faculty Center additions; and he served the Armenian Missionary Association of America as Senior Technical Advisor to the Board of Directors for the AMAA's Avedisian High School and Community Center, where he initiated the mandate and counseled on making the building a case study in energy efficiency in Armenia. The AMAA's Avedisian School and Community Center now boasts being the first LEED Certified building in Armenia and the greater Caucasus.

His Holiness, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Hosts a Delegation of the Armenian Evangelical Church and AMAA



On September 26, His Holiness, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, and His Grace Bishop Arshak Khatchaturian, Chancellor of the Catholicosate of All Armenians, hosted the 13 member delegation of the Armenian Evangelical Church and Armenian Missionary Association at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Members of the delegation were in Armenia on the occasion of the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The delegation was headed by Rev. Megrditch Karageozian, President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (to the right of His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II) and Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director (to the left of His Grace Bishop Arshak Khatchaturian). □

The semi-annual meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Haigazian University and the Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) were held in November at the UACC in Hollywood and the AEUNA offices in Glendale respectively. The HU President and BOT members from Lebanon and around the country as well as AEUNA Board members from across the nation attended both meetings. AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian and Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian were among the participants.



Board of Directors of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.



Board of Trustees of Haigazian University.

AMAA Representatives Participate in the 25th Anniversary of Armenia's Independence Day Celebration Organized by the Embassy of Armenia

On September 28, AMAA Representatives participated in the Celebration of Armenia's 25th Independence Day at the Hall of the Americas in Washington, DC. Organized by the Embassy of Armenia to the United States under the auspices of the Armenia Fund, over 400 guests attended the event representing various Armenian and non-Armenian organizations and churches.

Armenian Ambassador to the U.S. Grigor Hovhannissian welcomed the guests and spoke about the key role of those who paved the way for U.S.-Armenia relations. Armenia Fund President Maria Mehranian served as the Master of Ceremonies, with special remarks from Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Representatives Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Jackie Speier (D-CA), as well as Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA). □

L to R: Drs. Nurhan and Celeste Helvacian, Zaven Khanjian, Victoria and Ambassador Grigor Hovhannissian, Sona Khanjian, Gary and Arsine Phillips.



Meeting with UNDP Administrator and Regional Director

In a special arrangement with the Armenia Representative at the UN, Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, the Avedisian School benefactor and AMAA Board member Edward Avedisian met with the UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and Assistant Administrator Cihan Sultanoğlu, at a luncheon on Monday, November 21. AMAA Vice President Peter Kougasian, past Board member Jeanmarie Papelian and Ambassador Mnatsakanyan were also present.

The UNDP Regional Director, who had been very supportive and instrumental in the planning and construction process of the Avedisian School, was invited to be the keynote speaker of the first graduating class at Avedisian in June 2017. □



L to R: Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Peter Kougasian, Esq., Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq., Helen Clark, Edward Avedisian and Cihan Sultanoğlu.

Garo Paylan Visits the AMAA Headquarters in Paramus, NJ

Garo Paylan, a member of Turkish Parliament, visited the Headquarters of the Armenian Missionary Association in Paramus, NJ, on Tuesday, October 4, accompanied by Nurhan Becidyian of Paramus, NJ and Tamar Nalci, Paylan's advisor.

Mr. Paylan and the guests met with Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, and Nurhan Helvacian, AMAA's Treasurer. The discussions centered on the current situation in Turkey and the worldwide ministries of the AMAA. □



L to R: Nurhan Becidyian, Nurhan Helvacian, Zaven Khanjian, Garo Paylan and Tamar Nalci.

The Uniting Church in Australia Honored with the "Freedom Award"

The Uniting Church in Australia was honored with the Freedom Award, leading an illustrious list of award recipients at the Armenian National Committee of Australia's (ANC Australia) Annual Banquet in Terrey Hills on Friday, November, 4. The Uniting Church in Australia is the third-largest Christian denomination in Australia, and in 2015, its Assembly passed a unanimous motion recognizing the Armenian Genocide. The motion was moved by Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian, President of the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia and the Minister of St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Longueville.

The "Freedom Award" by ANC Australia thanked the Uniting Church for their historic motion, as well as acknowledged their initiation of Australia's first major humanitarian relief campaign to aid the Armenians forced to flee their homes in Western Armenia by the Ottoman Empire.

Members and clergy of the Uniting Church in Australia, as well as the Armenian Evangelical Church of Australia, were in attendance to witness the church's President, Stuart McMillan, accept the award along with Rev. Dr. Youmshajekian. □



L to R: Stuart McMillan, Uniting Church Australia Assembly President; Greg Soghomonian, Honorary, Chairman of ANC (Armenian National Committee of Australia); Raffi Hamparian, ANC America Chairman; and Rev. Dr Krikor Youmshajekian, holding the "Freedom Award."

Haigazian University President Meets With Alumni in Fresno, CA

On November 13, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University, was invited to give a lecture at Fresno State University. On this occasion, a group of Haigazian Alumni members and their spouses welcomed the President at the home of Edward and Roseanne Saliba for a time of fellowship and an update on the current status of the University. □



Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian (sitting in the center) and Haigazian University Alumni at the home of Edward and Roseanne Saliba in Fresno, CA.

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AMAA's Director of Finance Visits Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, MA

On Sunday, October 2, AMAA's Director of Finance David Aynejian visited the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, MA. During church service, two young adults spoke about their participation in the AMAA's internship this past summer. After church services, Mr. Aynejian gave a presentation to the congregation which involved a video on the history of the AMAA, as well as an update of current programs and projects. Mr. Aynejian also answered questions from parishoners. The day was capped off by a delicious lahmajoun lunch. □



David Aynejian (on the left) with Missions' Committee of the Armenian Memorial Church.

The First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA Holds AMAA Sunday

The First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA held their AMAA Sunday on October 16. Levon Filian, AMAA's West Coast Executive Director, gave the sermon during the worship service and shared with the congregation information about the AMAA's ministries around the world. He thanked the pastors and the congregation for their generous support for the mission and service of the Association. □



L to R: Rev. Mike Mekredijian, Associate Pastor, Levon Filian and Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Senior Pastor.

AMAA Sunday at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ



On Sunday, October 2, the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ had a special worship service dedicated to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, brought the message during the service. The title of his sermon was "Giving and Receiving" which was followed by a power point presentation about the Association's service and ministry around the world. □

AMAA's West Coast Executive Director Visits St. Nareg Church in Montebello, CA



L to R: Dr. Anthony Euredjian, Arpi Haleblan, Rev. Haig Kherlopian, Levon Filian, Nelly Astorian, Garo Sulahian and Rev. Joe Garabedian.

Sunday, November 27 was a special season for *thanksgiving* for St. Nareg Church. They had moved into their newly rented facilities in Montebello, CA to become a lighthouse for the local Armenian community.

Over 100 members attended the worship service. Rev Haig Kherlopian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, brought the message and Levon Filian, AMAA's West Coast Executive Director, presented a video about the ministries of the Association around the world.

The church family had prepared a Thanksgiving luncheon following the services. Many church members praised God with their personal testimonies. □

The Armenian Christian Fellowship of Costa Mesa, CA Holds AMAA Sunday



Front row L to R: Viken Yaghjian, Shant Abadjian, David Azizian.
Back row L to R: Daniel Goglanian, Minas Zartarian, Raffi Pinedjian, Abraham Megerdichian.

On Sunday November 6, the The Armenian Christian Fellowship of Orange County in Costa Mesa, CA held their annual AMAA Sunday. Levon Filian, AMAA's West Coast Executive Director, shared the blessings and challenges of the Association asking for their prayers and financial support for the AMAA's ministry around the word, especially for Armenia and Syria.

The worship service was followed by a reception and a fellowship hour. Following the fellowship hour, Rev. Shant Abadjian, Pastor of the Church, and the elders met with Mr. Filian to elaborate on a closer working relationship. □

Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church Holds Missions' Luncheon to Support AMAA's Ministries Around the World



On Sunday, September 17, the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA held its Missions' Luncheon to support AMAA's ministries around the world. Levon Filian, AMAA's West Coast Executive Director, gave the English message during the Worship Service and reported on the mission and upcoming projects of the Association. □

Deacons' Committee which also serves as the Missions' Committee of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church. L to R: JoAnn Ohanesian, Araxie Ekhsigian, Rev. John Melkonian (guest), Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Levon Filian, Rev. Dr. John Khanjian (guest), Rosemary Saatjian (Church Council Moderator), George Ekmekjian and Levon Baroutjian.

Պատմական Յիշատակելի Օրեր

Մայր Հայրենիքի Մէջ

Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Յ. Թութիկեան

Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ 170-ամեայ եւ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան վերանկախացման 25-ամեայ զոյգ տարեդարձները արժանաւայել շուքով տօնուեցան Մայր Հայրենիքի մէջ, Սեպտեմբեր 20-26 օրերուն, նախաձեռնութեամբ՝ Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդին (ՀԱՀԽ) եւ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան (ԱՀԱԸ): Արտասահմանի 13 երկիրներէ Հայաստան ժամանած էին բազմաթիւ Հայ Աւետարանականներ, որոնք պատմական այս յիշատակելի օրերը վայելեցին իրենց հայրենի աշխարհին մէջ:

Տօնակատարութեանց մաս կը կազմէին հետեւեալ կարեւոր գործունէութիւնները.-

1. Սեպտեմբեր 20-ի երեկոյեան Ջրվեժ քաղաքի Նայիրի ճաշարանին մէջ տեղի ունեցաւ ճաշկերոյթ եւ գեղարուեստական շքեղ հանդիսութիւն կազմակերպուած ԱՀԱԸ-ի կողմէ՝ ի պատիւ արտասահմանէն ժամանած հիւրերուն:

2. Սեպտեմբեր 21-ին, Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան 25-ամեայ անկախութեան առթիւ, Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի պատուիրակութիւն մը հիւրաբար ներկայ գտնուեցաւ Նախագահ Սարգսյանի կողմէ հովանաւորուած պետական հանդիսութեան Կարէն Դեմիրճեան Համալիրի մէջ:

3. Սեպտեմբեր 22-ին ՀԱՀԽ եւ ԱՀԱԸ-ի կողմէ խառն պատուիրակութիւն մը հանդիպում ունեցաւ ՀՀ Սփիւռքի Նախարար, ազնուաշուք Հրանուշ Հակոբյանի հետ:

4. Սեպտեմբեր 22 - 24, Հայ Աւետ. Հովիւներու Համագումարը տեղի ունեցաւ Հանքաւանի Հայ Աւետարանական Ճամբարին մէջ, նախաձեռնութեամբ ՀԱՀԽ-ի եւ կազմակերպութեամբ Հայաստանի Հայ Աւետարանական Միութեան: Համագումարի ընդհանուր ծախսերը հոգացած էին ՀԱՀԽ-ը եւ Ստեփան Փիլիպոսեան Հիմնարկը: Ներկայ էին 70-է ւնելի հոգեւոր հովիւներ եւ գործիչներ: Համագումարին բնաբանն էր «Աստուծոյ Կոչումին Հաւատարիմ»: Բացման խօսքը ըրաւ Տիար Զաւէն Խանճեան: Պատագամաբերներն էին Վերապատուելիներ Մկրտիչ Գարակէօգեան, Փօլ Հայտօսթեան, Աւետիս Պոյներեան, Պերճ Ծամպագեան, Ծօել Սիքայելեան եւ Մկրտիչ Մելքոնեան: 170-ամեակի ոգեկոչման պատգամը եւ հաղորդութեան պաշտամունքը առաջնորդեց Վեր. Վահան Թութիկեան:

5. Կիրակի Սեպտեմբեր 25-ի առաւօտուն տեղի ունեցաւ Դիլիջան քաղաքի Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ նորակառոյց տաճարին եւ քրիստոնէական դաստիարակութեան շէնքի նուիրման պաշտամունքը: Եկեղեցւոյ Հոգեւոր Հովիւը, Վեր. Գառնիկ Թութիկեան առաջնորդեց պաշտամունքը եւ գնահատանքի խօսքը ուղղեց Աւետարանականի եւ եկեղեցւոյ բարերարներուն: Պաշտամունքի մէջ բաժին առին Վերապատուելիներ Մկրտիչ Մելքոնեան, Բրնէ Լեւոնեան, Յակոբ Զողանճեան, Մկրտիչ Գարակէօգեան, Յարութիւն Սելիմեան, Ալպերթ Փայտյան, Դոկտ. Նազարէթ Տարագճեան եւ տիար Զաւէն Խանճեան: Օրուան պատգամաբերն էր Վեր. Վահան Թութիկեան, պատուակալ հովիւր Տիթորոյթի Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցւոյ: Տիթորոյթի Եկեղեցին քոյր եկեղեցին է Դիլիճանի

Եկեղեցիին իր հիմնադրութեան թուականէն (2000-էն) ի վեր:

Պաշտամունքի ավարտին, նորակառոյց եկեղեցաշէնքի բարերարները, Դոկտորներ Նազարէթ եւ Անի Տարագճեանները, հանդիսաւոր կերպով քողագերծեցին իրենց ծնողաց. Վեր. եւ Տիկին Էմմանուէլ Տարագճեանի յիշատակին նուիրուած յուշատախտակը: Իսկ Քրիստոնէական դաստիարակութեան բաժնի բարերարուհի՝ Տիկին Անայիս Տէրեան կը բացակայէր կամքէ անկախ պատճառներով: Այս առթիւ զինք կը ներկայացնէր Վեր. Պերն Ճամպազեան, որ փոխառինաբար մասնակցեցաւ նաւակատիքի արարողութեան:

6. Կիրակի 25 Սեպտեմբեր 2016-ին, Արամ Խաչատուրեանի անուան մեծ համերգասրահին մէջ տեղի ունեցաւ Հայց. Աւետարանական եկեղեցւոյ 170-ամեակին եւ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան անկախութեան վերականգնման 25-ամեակին նուիրուած յորելինական գլխաւոր տօնախմբութիւնը՝ սենեկային երաժշտութեան ազգային կեդրոնի «Հովեր» երգչախումբին եւ Հայաստանի պետական սենեկային նուագախումբին մասնակցութեամբ:

Տօնախմբութեան ընթացքին շնորհաւորական ուղերձներով հանդէս եկան Վեր. Գէորգ Գասպարյան, Հայաստանի հայ Աւետարանական Միութեան Նախագահ: Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան նախագահ Դոկտ. Նազարէթ Տարագճեան, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան գործադիր տնօրէն Տիար Զաւէն Խանճեան, Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի Գործադիր Տնօրէն Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Թութիկեան, իսկ փակման խօսքն ու աղօթքը ըրաւ Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի Նախագահ Վեր. Մկրտիչ Գարակէօզեան:

Այս առիթով, պատրաստուած էր 50 էջնոց գողտրիկ Յուշամատեան/Յայտագիր մը, որուն մէջ իրենձ շնորհաւորութիւնները յայտնած են Հայաստանի Նախագահ Սերժ Սարգսյան, Գարեգին Բ. եւ Արամ Ա. Կաթողիկոսները եւ բազմաթիւ Հայ եկեղեցականներ եւ կազմակերպութիւններու ղեկավարներ: Այս առթիւ նաեւ Արեւելահայերէնի թարգմանուած էր Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Թութիկեանի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ Նպաստն ու Ծառայութիւնները Հայ Ազգին վերտառութեամբ



Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան 25-ամեայ անկախութեան առթիւ տեղի ունեցող պետական հանդիսութեան ներկայ գտնուող հիւրերէն ոմանք Կարէն Դեմիրճեան Համալիրի դիմաց:



Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու 170-ամեակի առիթ յատուկ ցուցահանդէս Արամ Խաչատուրեանի անուան համերգասրահին մէջ:

գիրքը, որմէ օրինակներ նուիրուեցան պատուոյ հիւրերուն եւ Հայ Աւետարանական հովիւներուն:

7. Երկուշաբթի, Սեպտեմբեր 26-ին, ՀԱՀԽ-ի եւ եկեղեցիներու միութիւններէ կազմուած պատուիրակութիւն մը այցելեց Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոս Գարեգին Բ: Այցելութիւնը տեղի ունեցաւ սիրալիր մթնոլորտի մէջ:

Անտարակոյս, Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ 170-րդ եւ Հայաստանի վերանկախացման 25-րդ զոյգ տարեդարձները հոգեկան բաւարարութիւն եւ ոգեւորութիւն պատճառող նշանակալից օրեր հանդիսացան բոլոր անոնց, որոնք բարեախտութիւնը ունեցան մասնակից դառնալու Հայաստանի մէջ Սեպտեմբերի վերջին 10 օրերու իրադարձութիւններուն: □

Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի Գործադիր Տնօրէն՝ Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Թուրքիեանի Ուղերձը Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի 170-ամեակի Յօրելիական Հանդիսութեան

Պատուոյ հիւրեր, հոգեւոր եղբայրներ եւ սիրելի հանդիսականներ,

Հաւաքուած ենք այստեղ տօնելու Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ 170-ամեայ Յօրելեանը: Երջանիկ գուգադիպութեամբ մը այս օրերուն Հայաստանի Հանրապետութիւնն ալ կը տօնէ իր անկախութեան 25-ամեակը:

Այս գոյգ ամիթներով կ'ողջունենք ձեզ բոլորդ ալ յանուն Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդին:

170 տարիներ շարունակ Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին հաւատարիմ մնացած է իր անունին, կոչումին եւ առաքելութեան, որուն համար Աստուծոյ փառք կուտանք:

Իմաստով մը, Իր անունը կրող 3 բառեր կ'արտայայտեն մեր եկեղեցւոյ կոչումն ու առաքելութիւնը:

Երեք բառեր, որոնք յատկանշական են - **Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցի:**

170 տարիներ առաջ երբ ծնունդ առաւ մեր եկեղեցին Պոլսոյ մէջ, անոր հիմնադիրները զայն անուանեցին Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցի:

1. Նախ եւ առաջ մեր Եկեղեցին **Հայաստանեայց** է, ՀԱՅ Եկեղեցի է, որովհետեւ ան ծնաւ Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ ծոցին մէջ, մնաց, եւ կը մնայ հայկական Եկեղեցի: 170 տարիներ շարունակ ան Հայ Եկեղեցի է իր կոչումով եւ առաքելութեամբ, իր յոյսերով եւ յոյզերով, իր մտահոգութիւններով եւ մարտահրաւերներով:
Մենք Հայ եկեղեցի ենք, հպարտ ենք մեր հայութիւնով, հպարտ մեր ազգով ու մեր հայրենիքով: Եւ Հայ ազգին ու հայրենիքին համար մատուցած ենք մեր ծառայութիւնը հոգեւոր, կրթական, մշակութային եւ ընկերային մարզերու մէջ:
2. Մեր Եկեղեցին նաեւ **Աւետարանական** Եկեղեցի է: Աւետարանական՝ որովհետեւ Աւետարանը, Քրիստոսի սիրոյ եւ փրկութեան Բարի Լուրը, մեր կեանքի եւ գործի հիմնախարիսխն է: Աւետարանը մեր անհատական, հաւաքական եւ եկեղեցական կեանքի գերագոյն հեղինակութիւնն է: Աւետարանը մեր պարծանքն է: Չայն տարածելը մեր պարտականութիւնն է: Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին կը հաւատայ որ ամէն մարդ պետք է ընդունի Բարի Լուր եղող Քրիստոս որպէս իր կեանքի Տէր եւ Փրկիչ:
3. Մեր Եկեղեցին նաեւ **Եկեղեցի** է, բառին բովանդակ իմաստով, այսինքն Հաւատացեալներու ժողովք: Ան ժողովարան չէ, աղանդ չէ, այլ անբաժանելի մէկ մասը Քրիստոսի Տիեզերական/ընդհանրական Եկեղեցիին: 170 տարիներէ ի վեր անոր կոչումը եղած է Կենաց Բանին Քարոզութիւնը, Աստուծոյ խօսքը քարոզելը, Քրիստոնէական Դաստիարակութիւն ջամբել, Քրիստոնէական հաղորդակցութեան կապեր հաստատել Քրիստոնէայ եկեղեցիներու հետ: 170 տարիներէ ի վեր ան կենդանի վկան եղած է Քրիստոսի – Անոր անունով վկայած է եւ ծառայած, թէ՛ Հայ ազգին եւ թէ՛ մարդկութեան:

Սիրելի հանդիսականներ, այսօրուան այս հաւաքոյթը հոգեւոր խնճոյք մըն է ամենուս համար ուր մէկտեղուած ենք տօնելու Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ 170 ամեակը եւ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան 25 ամեակը: Աստուած օրինէ մեր Եկեղեցին եւ Աստուած օրինէ մեր Հայրենիքը: Կեցցե՛ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին եւ կեցցե՛ ազատ անկախ Հայաստանը:

25 Սեպտեմբեր, 2016
Երեւան, ՀՀ

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Գործադիր Տնօրէն Չաւէն Խանճեանի Ուղերձը Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի 170-ամեակի Յոբելինական Հանդիսութեան՝ Նուիրուած Հայաստանի Անկախութեան 25-ամեակին

Սրբազան հայրեր, Վերապատուելիներ, Հոգեւոր հայրեր, Յարգարժան հիւրեր, Սիրելի ազգակիցներ,

Հայաստանի երրորդ հանրապետութեան անկախութեան քսանհինգամեակին, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան անունով կ'ողջունեմ եւ կը շնորհաւորեմ մեզ բոլորս արդի հայոց պատմութեան մէջ ցայտուն իրականութիւն դարձող աննախընթաց այս տօնախմբութեան առիթով:

Արդարեւ՝ դարաւոր հայրենիքի, պապենական օճախի եւ անմարդկային աներեւակայելի կորուստի փորձառութիւնը ապրած Սփիւռքը իր քաջքշուող գոյապատճառի եւ գոյապայքարի տրամաբանական եւ միակ անփիաստելի կրակի ճարճատումը վառ պահած էր, իր երազած անկախ Հայաստանի մը շօշափելի իրականութեան մէջ...

Իսկ հայրենի հասարակութիւնը, եօթանասուն տարիներ կբած Սովետական ճնշիչ եւ ստրկիչ իշխանութեան մը տակ կը բաղձար թափ տալ իր ներդրւած ազատօրէն օգտագործելու եւ ստեղծագործելու հնարաւորութեան, անկախ եւ գերիշխան հայրենիքի մը հողին վրայ:

Հայրենագուրկ, հայրենաբաղձ եւ հայրենակարօտ աշխարհացրիւ Սփիւռքի դարաւոր երազը, գումարած հայրենի ժողովուրդի ազատութեան ձգտումի բաղձանքին՝ անակնկալօրէն իրականացած էր: Պատմութեան այդ հոլովոյթին ապշահար ականատես եղող հայութիւնը կարողացաւ պահ մը վայելել, հրճուիլ եւ վերանալ իր արժանապատուութիւնը վերագտած իրաւատէրի մը նման: Գերիշխան երկիրներու կարգին մեր տեղը գտած էինք Միացեալ Ազգերու Կազմակերպութեան մէջ: Մեր զլուխները բարձր ու ճակատները բաց՝ հպարտութեամբ հաւաքաբար ողջունեցինք ազատօրէն ծածանող երագոյնը եւ անոր երանգներուն տակ ապահով զգացող ամէն հայու պատկանող հայրենի աշխարհը:

Հայ ժողովուրդի պատմութեան երկնակամարին վրայ երկնած արեւի շերմութիւնը սակայն շուտով փորձաքարի զարնուեցաւ: Բնական հոլովոյթով մը վրայ հասաւ Սովետական կարգերու քայքայումի քառսէն պետութիւն կերտելու դժուարին մարտահրաւերը: Այս բոլորը, գումարած շարունակուող Թուրք-Ատրայէճանական շրջափակումներուն պատճառ դարձան տնտեսական եւ ընկերային տագնապի եւ ծաւալող գործազրկութեան:

Չուգահեռ ընթացաւ Աւարայրի մարտիրոսութիւնը եւ Սարդարապատի սխրագործութիւնը յուշող հպարտալից բայց մարդկային եւ նիւթական հսկայ զոհողութիւններու զինով շահուած ազատագրական Արցախեան հնգամեայ պատերազմը:

Հակառակ ստեղծուած դաժան պայմաններուն, անկախութեան քսանհինգ տարիներու ընթացքին երկիրը զարգացաւ: Վկայ՝ Քաղաքամայր Երեւանի գեղեցիկ պողոտաները, շրջապատող գոյափեղկերը, շքեղ սրճարաններն ու ճաշարանները, արդիական հիւրանոցները եւ արդի ճարտարապետական կոթողները: Վկայ՝ համահայկական ներդրումով Հայաստան Համահայկական Հիմնադրամի կառուցած Արցախեան ճանապարհները, ջրամուղիները, վարժարաններն, հիւանդանոցներն, երաժշտանոցներն եւ այլ կառոյցները: Վկայ՝ կրթական բարձրորակ նորակերտ հաստատութիւնները: Վկայ՝ հայ անհատի ստեղծագործ մտքին երկունքը հանդիսացող արուեստի, ճարտարարուեստի, գիտութեան, մշակոյթի, մարզական եւ բժշկական մարզերուն մէջ ձեռք բերուած յաջողութիւնները: Վերջապէս վկայ՝ երկրի սահմանները պաշտպանող Հայկական քաջարի հրաշք բանակը իր խիզախ եւ մարտնչող զինուորներով, սպաներով եւ համապատասխան զինուորական

սարգաւորումներով եւ ազգային հերոս դեկլարութեամբ: Օրեր առաջ մենք ականատես եղանք հայկական քաջարի բանակի զօրահանդէսին, որու արդիական զօրութեն, սպառազինութենէն անդին մեզ փշաքաղողը Հայ զինուորին աննուանելի ոգին է:

Հայրենիքի կարօտով տոգորուած խանդավառ Սփիւռքը իր ականայայտ դերը ունեցաւ այս զարգացումին մէջ: Անհատներ, խմբաւորումներ եւ կազմակերպութիւններ ողողեցին հայրենիքը իրենց զանազան մարզերու մէջ ունեցած մասնագիտական մարդուժով, գործարարական փորձարութեամբ, արտադրական արդիագոյն գիտութեամբ, ֆինանսական ներդրումներով, նպաստներու հսկայ ծրագիրներով՝ բոլորը ծրարուած անսահման սիրոյ եւ գոհողութեան ոգիով:

Համեստօրէն հարկ է նշել թէ Աւետարանչականը, քրիստոնէական ջերմ սիրով եւ ազգային պարտաւորութեան խոր գիտակցութեան ոգիով, նախորդ քսանհինգ տարիներու ընթացքին հայրենիքի մէջ մարդուժի, կրթական, հոգեւոր եւ ընկերային ծրագիրներու, նպաստներու եւ ծառայութեան դաշտին մէջ անհրաժեշտ կառոյցներու ոլորտներու մէջ ներդրած է մօտ Հարիւր միլիոն ամերիկեան տոլար: Հարիւր միլիոն տոլար՝ որու ամէն մէկը նուիրուած է հայրենիքի հանդէպ անխախտ հաւատարմութեամբ, սիրով, գոհողութեամբ, հաւատքով եւ յոյսով:

Զարգացումներու շարքը երկար է, մենք հպարտ ենք հայրենիքով բայց բոլորս ալ գիտակից ենք թէ՝ չենք բաւարարուած:

...Երկու անվիճելի իրավիճակներ գրաւականն են մեր լիիրաւ եւ արժանի անկախութեան:

Ա- Հօր պետութեան մը գոյացումը:

Պետութիւն՝ որ կարող է պաշտպանել երկրի սահմանները, ապահովել անոր գերիշխանութիւնը եւ ամենաթոյգն վտանգէ գերծ պահել անոր խաղաղ բնակչութիւնը: Այս վիճակին մէջ գլխաւոր եւ իւրայատուկ տեղ կը գրաւէ ազատ եւ գերիշխան Արցախի մը ապահովումը: Արցախ՝ որ Հայաստանի գոյութեան, հզօրութեան եւ գերիշխանութեան գրաւականն է, անսասան թումբը, անխախտելի ու անխոցելի կարմիր գիծը:

Պետութիւն՝ որ հօր եւ կարող ըլլայ օժանդակելու Սփիւռքի մէջ սուր տագնապներու ենթարկուող հայահոծ գաղութներուն:

Բ- Գոհունակ քաղաքացիութեան մը երաշխիքը:

Միացեալ Նահանգներու սահմանադրութեան յայտարարութեան պատճենին մէջ տեղ կը գրաւէ ժողովուրդի «Կեանքի, ազատութեան եւ երջանկութեան» արդար իրաւունքը: Ոչինչով պակաս իրաւացի է այս երաշխիքը հայրենի մեր ժողովուրդի ամէն մէկ զաւակի կամ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան ամէն մէկ քաղաքացիի համար: Այս վիճակը կ'ապահովուի ընկերային արդարութեան հաւաստիքներով լիացած ընկերութեան մը մէջ, առանց խտրականութեան օրէնքի արդար եւ հաւասար կիրարկումով:

Հայրենիքը սուրբ է եւ հարկ է սրբութեամբ մօտենալ անոր հանդէպ մեր ունեցած անհատական եւ հաւաքական պարտաւորութիւններուն, որ բոլորիսն է անխտիր:

Աւետարանչականը անգամ մը եւս կը շնորհաւորէ ձեր բոլորը Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան քսանհինգերորդ տարեդարձին առիթով եւ հրապարակաւ կը հաստատէ իր անդադրում եւ խարսխուած յանձնառութիւնը հայրենիքի հզօրացման եւ անոր ժողովուրդի հոգեմտաւոր եւ ֆիզիքական զարգացման ճանապարհին:

Փառք Աստուծոյ մեր բոլորին ազատ եւ անկախ հայրենիքի համար:

Բարի տարեդարձ եւ բարի երթ շատ սիրելի ազատ եւ անկախ հայրենիք:

Շնորհակալութիւն:

25 Սեպտեմբեր, 2016
Երեւան, ՀՀ

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Նախագահ՝ Տօքթ. Նազարէթ Տարագճեանի Ուղերձը Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի 170-ամեակի Յոբելինական Հանդիսութեան

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան կողմէ ձեզի բոլորին բարի գալուստ կը մաղթեմ այս իրիկուայ ձեռնարկին որուն շարժարիթն է տօնել Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին 170 ամեակը: Զուգադիպութիւն չէ որ այս հանդիսութիւնը տեղի կ'ունենայ մեր պանծալի անկախութեան 25 ամեակէն մի քանի օրեր ետք: Որպէս Հայ Աւետարանականներ մենք անբաժան մասնիկն ենք Հայ ազգին եւ հայրենիքին: Անոր ուրախութիւնը մեր ուրախութիւնն է, անոր վիշտը եւ տառապանքը դարձեալ մերն է: Հետեւելով Յիսուսի այն յորդորին որ է «աւելի լաւ է տալը քան թէ առնելը», Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին տուած է Հայ ազգին հերոսներ, մարտիկներ, ազգային դէպքեր, ուսուցիչներ, բազում դպրոցներ եւ կրթական հաստատութիւններ, ինչպէս նաեւ ընկերային ծառայութեան կեդրոններ: Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին տուած է նահատակներ որոնց ամենէն յիշատակելին եւ ցաւալին է Ատանայի ճամբուն վրայ եկեղեցիի մը մէջ այն հրկիզուած 50էն աւելի մեր հոգեւոր հովիւները եւ առաջնորդները: Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը որ գործունեայ բազուկն է Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիին, ներդրում ունեցաւ Հայաստանի մէջ 1988-ի աղետալի երկրաշարժէն ետք մինչեւ այսօր: Աւելի քան քառորդ դար Աւետարանչականի ծրագիրները Հայաստանի եւ Ղարաբաղի մէջ հազարաւոր մանուկներու եւ պատանիներու կեանքը կը ճոխացնեն եւ անոնց ֆիզիքական եւ հոգեւոր զարգացման կը սատարեն, ըլլայ անկախ Աւետիսեան դպրոցի, կամ զանազան ցերեկային կեդրոններու, ճամբարներու եւ այլ ծրագիրներու միջոցաւ:

Ի՞նչ է տեսիլքը Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին եւ ի՞նչ է մեր գոյութեան իմաստը եւ նպատակը այս ժամանակներուն, երբ մենք կամաց կամաց կը մօտենանք մեր 200 ամեակին: Իսկականին մէջ մեր նպատակները շատ տարբեր չեն անոնցմէ որ կը մղէին եւ կը խանդաւարէին մեր եկեղեցւոյ նախահայրերը 1846 թուին Կ.Պոլսոյ մէջ: Մեր երազն է տակաւին որ ամէն մէկ հայորդի կարդայ եւ մօտէն ծանօթանայ Աստուածաշունչին՝ իրեն ծանօթ եւ մատչելի բառերով: Մեր երազն է որ ամէն հայորդի ունենայ Քրիստոսը իբրեւ իր կեանքի իտեալը եւ ուղղեցոյցը: Մեր երազն է որ ամէն հայորդի կանոնաւորապէս յաճախէ եւ նեցուկ կանգնի իր նախնորած հայկական եկեղեցիին՝ ըլլայ այդ Հայ Առաքելական, Հայ Աւետարանական եւ կամ Հայ կաթողիկէ: Մենք կը հաւատանք որ որպէս Սր. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչի թոռները, մենք պէտք է ըլլանք իսկական Հայ Քրիստոնէաներ եւ միայն այն ատեն է որ մենք պիտի ըլլանք մարդասէր, ազգասէր, եւ անխոնջ ծառայենք մեր հայրենակիցներուն որոնք ունին նիւթական կարիքներ, առողջական դժուարութիւններ, ուսման ծառա եւ այլեւայլ պէտքեր կեանքի մէջ յաջողութիւն գտնելու: Եւ եթէ մենք այս բոլորը իրագործենք, Հայաստանը իրապէս որ պիտի ըլլայ երկիր դրախտավայր: Եկէք բոլորս մէկ աշխատինք այդ նպատակին համար:

25 Սեպտեմբեր, 2016
Երեւան, ՀՀ

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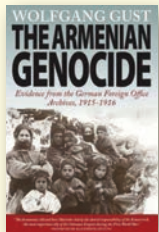
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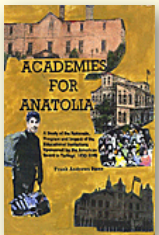
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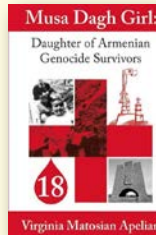
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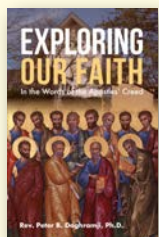
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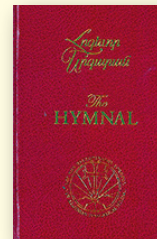
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100 YEARS STRONG: An invaluable contribution to the Genocide Centennial Dicran Kassouny

Dicran Kassouny is an esteemed and established art director and illustrator, and the son of Armenian Evangelical parents, historian, editor, author and intellectual Yervant H. Kassouny, Ph.D. and editor, author and educator, Jeanette Kassouny. This is his first volume.

As described in the conclusion of the book, "Genocide posters not only bring to the fore the rich tapestry of political and social change that has shaped the Armenian world since 1915, but have themselves often played a key role in the development of that world. Genocide posters might have had their greatest traction late 1970s and early 1980s, before the advent of the Internet, when the poster could be – and was – a shining star of mass communication. Yet even today, despite the shadow of social media and other digital pathways traveled across with obscene ease, the Genocide poster, wan as it may have become, has its distinct place in popular imagination, as an annunciator that equally commands respect, invites contemplation, and inspires a measure of collective pride. It functions, ultimately, as a reminder, therefore an affirmation, of the cause."

We congratulate Dicran on this unique publication and look forward to more of his creative work.

Gloria Medzian

Gloria Medzian was born September 7, 1920 in Detroit, Michigan to Krikor and Julia Boyajian. Both her parents were survivors of the Armenian Genocide who fled to the United States from Kharpert, Turkey, settled in Michigan and then later in Fresno, CA. Gloria had three siblings, Betty Anne, Edward, and Robert. She passed away on August 27, 2016, surrounded by her family.



Gloria attended Wayne State University in Michigan, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education. Upon graduation, she taught elementary school, first in Michigan and later in California.

In 1943, she met the love of her life, Edward S. Medzian, when he visited the Armenian Congregational Church of Detroit where Gloria was a Sunday School teacher. Ed was an officer in the US Army stationed at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, MI, and Gloria knew immediately that she would marry him. In July 1944, they married in a military camp church in Abilene, Texas.

When the war ended, Ed and Gloria moved to San Francisco and settled in Hillsborough, CA. Gloria was an active member of the Hillsborough and greater Bay Area communities. Gloria served on many philanthropic boards and charitable causes. She was a member of the Junior Museum Auxiliary and in 1970, she chaired their annual fundraiser, The Decorators' Show House, at the Crocker Estate. She was also a co-founding member of the Carolands Garden Club, Co-Chair of the Symphony Foundation of the Peninsula, and Member of the Auxiliary of the Children's Health Home.

Gloria's deep appreciation for her Armenian heritage and faith in God inspired her to co-organize and become the first Chairwoman of the San Francisco Peninsula Chapter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). She was also active in numerous other Armenian organizations.

A breast cancer survivor, Gloria was never one to complain or slow down. She was an avid gardener, dancer, swimmer, traveler, and jazz aficionado. She was also a master hostess, and her love for entertaining and cooking led Gloria and Ed to participate in a local neighborhood dinner group that met for over 40 years.

Perhaps Gloria's most rewarding accomplishments were being a dedicated and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great

grandmother. She was selfless in her actions, loving in her words, and supportive of all around her.

She was blessed to celebrate 72 years of marriage to Ed as well as Ed's recent 96th birthday. Gloria was an elegant, graceful woman dedicated to helping her community, her church, and her family. She will be remembered for her beautiful smile, endless love for life and laughter, and graceful entertaining.

She is survived by her husband, Ed, their daughter Barbara Medzian, two granddaughters, Michelle Kezirian (d. Peter), Nicole Simonian (Andrew), and two great grandchildren, Alexander and Ashley Simonian. In addition, she is survived by her beloved nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for Gloria was held on October 1 at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco. The family requests donations be made to the Edward and Gloria Medzian Endowment Fund of Calvary Armenian Congregational Church; or to the Edward and Gloria Medzian Endowment Fund at the AMAA. □

Melkon Melkonian

Brother Melkon Melkonian, a lay preacher and writer, passed away on October 23, 2016 in Los Angeles, CA. He was 94.

Born in Aleppo, Syria on March 24, 1922, his parents were Mgrdich and Barkevouhi Melkonian who were blessed with three sons – Melkon, Kasbar (who passed away in Aleppo), and Rev. John Melkonian. Melkon's parents were Genocide survivors and they provided for his education until they were unable to do so which gave him a 3rd grade education.

At eleven years old, Melkon started working at a dry cleaner's shop. He lost his father at age fourteen and the burden of providing for the family fell on his and his mother's shoulders. He was a born again Christian at the age of seventeen and started faithfully attending the Armenian Brotherhood Church of Aleppo. He led worship services and preached until the doors of the Church were closed and the property was sold. At the same time Melkon established his own dry cleaning shop which provided for his family.

In 1944 Melkon married Ovsanna Vasoyan and they were blessed with three children – Kohar (Mouradian), Seta (Karageozian), and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian. One of Melkon's



joys was that he witnessed the growth of his children as they graduated from universities and formed their own families. He would gladly say, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." (Hebrews 2:13)

As a lay preacher, Melkon preached from many pulpits: in Azez, Syria, for 9 years; Turkey, for 30 days in 1970; France, for one month in 1983; Lebanon, in 1984 and on many other occasions; Los Angeles, in 1984; and Argentina, in 1984. He also organized Bible studies in their home for many years, and would serve God by preaching wherever he was asked to go.

Alongside preaching, Melkon also wrote many articles, such as The 150-year History of the Armenian Brotherhood Church of Aleppo; The History of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Homs; The History of the Church Bell of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Kaladouran, Kessab; and his mother's biography and her story during the Armenian Genocide. These articles were published in "Chanaser" a bimonthly publication of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East.

A few years ago, while visiting the United States, Melkon and Ovsanna were unable to return to Aleppo because of his stroke. Thankfully Melkon regained his mobility and ability to speak and write. His only complaint was about his inability to travel and preach.

Ten years ago, Melkon lost his wife of 62 years. He continued to live in Los Angeles until his passing. He is survived by his daughters, Kohar and Hratch Mouradian, Seta and Rev. Megrđitch Karageozian, his son Rev. Mgrdich and Houri Melkonian, his brother Rev. John and Jeanette Melkonian, nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on November 1 at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Hollywood Hills, CA. Donations in his memory may be sent to the AMAA designated for the needy students of the Armenian Evangelical P & E Torosian School of Nor Amanos, Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon. □

Levon Shemmassian

Levon Shemmassian, a true Renaissance man, passed away on November 6, 2016 in Anjar. He was 92.

He was born on December 22, 1923 in Hama, Syria to Kapriel "Jabra" Shemmassian of Yoghun Oluk and Marta Sherbetjian of Bitias, both villages in Musa Dagh. His family lived in Hama around 1922-1925 for economic



reasons: father Kapriel was a comb maker in the Souk el-Bazergan, where he was known as Jabra al-Mshati. Baron Levon had five siblings: Mary (m. Hovhannes Bursalian); Arshaluys (m. Verabadveli Piuzant Rubyan); Leoni Boyajian; Rosa (m. Hagop Koundakjian); and Kevork, not married. Baron Levon was the last survivor in the family.

The Shemmassian family moved to Yoghun Oluk in the mid-1920s. Again, for economic reasons, in 1929 father Kabriel migrated to Ethiopia, where many compatriots were already established. Levon, his mother, and siblings joined their father in Ethiopia in 1933. As a pastime, he hunted birds. Ethiopia's unspoiled nature and rich animal world left an indelible impression on the young hunter.

The family moved again to Musa Dagh, this time to Bitias, in 1936. For the next two years Levon attended the local Armenian Evangelical School and, for a shorter period, the parochial school. He also enrolled in the Christian Endeavor *Chanits* organization as an active member, participating in dramas and choir concerts.

In 1938, as talks about the impending annexation of the Sanjak of Iskenderun/Alexandretta to Turkey intensified, the Shemmassians relocated to Tripoli, Lebanon. Here Levon attended the Catholic Frères School and later the American Protestant Boys School. During his last month of high school, he was recruited by the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) as an intelligent, reliable and promising young man with a beautiful handwriting. He worked at IPC for more than three decades, attaining high positions in rapid succession. He married Manishag Temirian of Kessab in 1947 and the couple was blessed with five children: Anahid, Vahram, Sylva, Arpi and Raffi.

While Baron Levon continued to work at IPC, his family moved to Beirut in 1963 so the

children could attend the Armenian Evangelical College. On March 22, 1976, during the indiscriminate shelling of civilian neighborhoods by enemy factions in the Lebanese civil war, a bomb hit the Shemmassian residence, killing mother Manishag and wounding the rest. This unexpected tragedy caused great sorrow to Baron Levon and his children. Life for the Shemmassians, a happy and close family, changed forever.

Baron Levon retired from IPC in 1980 and moved to his beloved Anjar where he married Jacqueline Bedirian Khedeshian, in September. The couple have since lived in Anjar.

Baron Levon was truly a Renaissance Man. As such, he had many talents and interests that he shared with his colleagues, friends and compatriots. He was an avid reader of books and magazines, loved literature, especially poetry, and he wrote poems. He used to recite poetry in French, something that amazed even Frenchmen whenever he encountered one. He began to collect stamps as a teenager, and became an expert. The stamps, he used to say, were like a veritable school that gave him encyclopedic knowledge. He loved all kinds of music, especially classical music, created by both Armenian and foreign composers. He had a beautiful voice, and loved to sing. He was also very passionate about nature and particularly hunting. Even in his 80s he drove all the way to Kessab to hunt wild boars.

Baron Levon was a man whom everyone liked and respected. He was very friendly, had an endless list of jokes for all occasions, and could socialize with anyone, whether a child or an adult. But most of all, he was a man of principles and integrity. His strong Christian faith and boundless love for his nation guided him throughout his life. Besides his family and hobbies, he devoted his life to church, school and community in various capacities. For over

60 years he served the Armenian Evangelical churches and schools in Tripoli and Anjar as a Board member. He also paid special attention to the boarding house affiliated with the Armenian Evangelical School of Anjar. He volunteered his time and abilities to the people of Anjar, especially during the turbulent years of the Lebanese civil war. He was a member of the Judicial, Water Distribution, and Gas Distribution committees, as well as other ad hoc committees formed on certain important occasions.

In short, Baron Levon had a full, active life serving his Lord, Nation, and anyone else who needed his guidance and assistance. He leaves behind his wife, four children (Sylva predeceased him), seven grandchildren (Mher, Armen, Aram, Shirag, Ari, Lorig and Sophia), and three great grandchildren (Van, Daron and Siena). May God bless Baron Levon's soul and take him under His wing.

A funeral service was held November 9 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Anjar followed by an interment at the Anjar Cemetery. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and the staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends.

* **Robert Arabian**
Detroit, MI

Peter Babaian
Holden, MA

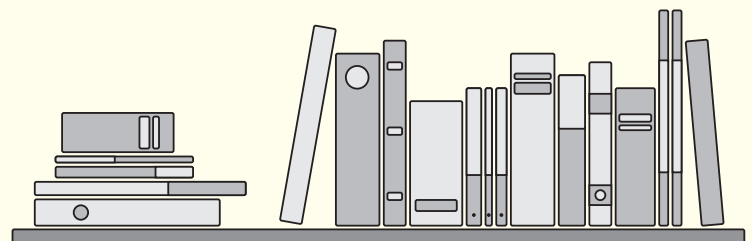
Nishan Basmadjian
Pasadena, CA

* **Mildred Brett Gardner**
Dumont, NJ
Vartouhi Kitischian
Midland Park, NJ

* *Memorials designated for AMAA*

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Received With Thanks



The AMAA acknowledges with gratitude receipt of the following new publications

Naim Efendi'nin Hatirati ve Talat Pasa Telgraflari - Krikor Gergeryan Arsivi by Taner Akcam

Armenia, Australia and the Great War by Vicken Babkenian & Peter Stanley

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